

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF RICHMOND
TOWN MEETING RESULTS
MARCH 2013**

The first session of the town meeting was held at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Richmond, NH on Tuesday, the 12th of March 2013, with polling hours from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm. Of the 829 registered voters on the checklist, 335 voted. The following subjects were acted upon by official ballot:

Article 1. Officers elected:

- Selectman for three (3) years, Carol Jameson – 158 votes
- Selectman for one (1) year, Sandra Gillis – 184 votes
- Planning Board for three (3) years, Norma Thibodeau – 198 votes
- Planning Board for three (3) years, Deborah Duffy – 194 votes
- Cemetery Trustee for three (3) years, William Coll – 111 votes
- Library Trustee for three (3) years, Bonnie McCarthy – 267 votes
- Trustee of Trust Funds for three (3) years, Terri O’Rorke – 232 votes
- Treasurer for three (3) years, Loreal Renee Schmidt – 248 votes

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To rewrite and reorganize Article 3. The purpose of Amendment #1 is to edit language so that the section is more understandable. Some of the specific changes to the section are: (1) 301 Ruins – which moves the reference to nonconforming structures to Article 9; (2) to add a provision for fences (314); (3) to add a provision for temporary signs; and (4) to relocate the Cluster Development section from Article 4 to Article 3.

The article passed: 244 Yes; 73 No.

Article 3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To rewrite and reorganize Article 4. The purpose of Amendment #2 is to edit language so that the section is more understandable. Specific changes to the section are: (1) to state clearly which uses are permitted by right, which are permitted by special exception, and to identify permitted accessory uses; (2) to allow a two-family dwelling on three acres instead of six acres; (3) to clarify the lot and yard requirements, including changing the front setback from 83 feet from the center of the road to 50 feet from the edge of the public right-of-way so that there will be consistency in this measurement; and (4) to delete the provisions for Conversion Apartments (405) because they are made redundant by the revised provisions for Accessory Dwellings and Multi-Family Dwellings. These changes are consistent with Master Plan recommendations speaking to the needs of an expanding, aging, and retiring

population, and to provide opportunity for small-scale commercial and light industrial use in town.

The article passed: 238 Yes; 80 No.

Article 4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To rewrite the provisions for Accessory Uses and Accessory Dwelling Units (Section 407). The purpose of Amendment #3 is to : (1) provide clarity regarding uses that are permitted as accessory to principal uses; (2) to provide more specific standards for Accessory Dwelling Units, including removing the requirements for documentation of the owner-occupied status; and (3) to relocate the provisions for Cluster Development into Article 3. These changes are consistent with Master Plan recommendations speaking to the needs of an expanding, aging, and retiring population.

The article passed: 230 Yes; 88 No.

Article 5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To rewrite Article 9 – Nonconforming Uses. The purpose of Amendment #4 is to provide specific provisions for nonconforming lots, buildings and uses, which all have different issues and impacts and need to be addressed separately.

The article passed: 227 Yes; 83 No.

Article 6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To rewrite Article 11 – Board of Adjustment (and renumber it to Article 10 and renumber Enforcement and Administration to Article 11. The purpose of Amendment #5 is to provide specific provisions for the four essential responsibilities of the Board of Adjustment. Other specific changes includes: (1) to rewrite the criteria for Special Exceptions that apply generally to all special exception uses, removing the existing criteria that more appropriately belong in Site Plan Review with the Planning Board; (2) to provide criteria for multi-family uses including changing the minimum lot size from three acres per unit to three acres for the first unit and 10,000 square feet for each additional unit; and (3) to establish specific standards for home occupations, commercial and light industrial uses, and recreational uses, none of which currently exist. These changes are consistent with Master Plan recommendations speaking to the needs of an expanding, aging, and retiring population, and to provide opportunity for small-scale commercial and light industrial use in town.

The article passed: 223 Yes; 90 No.

Article 7. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To rewrite Article 16 – Definitions, by adding definitions for uses newly-identified in the Ordinance, and revising others for clarity and compliance with state law. The purpose of Amendment #6 is to rewrite the section for better clarity, add new definitions for uses that are currently not defined, including new proposed uses, and renumber the entire section for ease of use.

The article passed: 235 Yes; 80 No.

The second session of the town meeting was held at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Richmond, NH on Saturday, the 16th of March 2013.

Seated at the table on the stage were: Sandra Gillis, Deborah Boncal, and Sean McElhiney (arrived at 10:19 am), Selectboard; Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk; David Tower, legal counsel for the Town of Richmond. Peter Majoy, Moderator, stood at the podium on the stage.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Mr. Majoy.

Leading the salute to the flag were Cub Scout Pack 27, Cub Scout Pack 297 and Girl Scout Troop 10805 led by Tony Marques.

Bonnie McCarthy led the invocation.

Walden Whitham sang “America the Beautiful.”

Pamela Goodell, Custodian of the Richmond 250 Cane, announced that Eleanor Fassett, who was not present at the meeting, was the recipient of the Cane this year. Mrs. Fassett was born in 1913. This was the fourth consecutive year that Mrs. Fassett has received the Cane. Mrs. Goodell read aloud the Proclamation and informed the meeting that she would personally present the Proclamation and Cane to Mrs. Fassett at a later date.

Mr. Majoy read the poem, “Old Soldier Hero,” written by Roger W. Hancock, in honor of veterans.

Mr. Majoy expressed gratitude to all election workers, election officials and other municipal workers.

Of the 829 voters on the checklist, 141 checked in.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$113,000 for the purpose of purchasing property located at 132 Old Homestead Highway, Map 408, Lot 49, adjacent to the Veterans Hall, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$113,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$35,000 for the first years payment of said bond. Recommended by the Selectmen. (2/3 ballot vote required).

The article was discussed for approximately 45 minutes, with the following people approaching the microphone to speak or speaking from the table on the stage: Sandra Gillis, Chairwoman of the Board of Selectmen; Geraldine Lutz, member of the Capital Improvements Program Committee; Neil Moriarty, Chairman of the Building Committee;

Maureen Blackledge; John Boccalini; Kandace Mattson; Melinda Hildreth-Honkala; Richard Drew; Daniel Connell; Judith Graves; James Carnie. Some of those speaking had questions. Some felt that it was premature to approve this article, that there was insufficient information. Others spoke in favor of the article.

At 10:15 am, Mr. Majoy announced that ballot voting would commence. He explained that the polls would remain open for voters until 11:30 am, at which time the Selectmen would tally the votes.

At 10:34 am, Mr. Majoy announced that the business of the meeting would resume with Article 9.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,898 for Executive Salaries and Expenses, including Moderator expenses.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,232 for Election, Registration and Vital Statistics.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,792 for Financial Administration, including Tax Collector, Treasurer and Auditor expenses.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,700 for 2013 assessing.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for Damages and Legal Expenses.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,288 for Land Use Department (Local and Regional Planning and Zoning).

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,700 for General Government Buildings.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,450 for Cemeteries.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,000 for Unemployment, Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$92,400 for the Police Department.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,500 for the Rescue Squad and Ambulance Services.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,800 for the Fire Department, which includes new Southwestern Mutual Aid expense of \$12,000.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the Zoning Compliance Officer, with the amount to come from surplus.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for Emergency Management, to be offset by funds from the Vermont Yankee Radiological Management Reimbursement Fund.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,000 for Highways and Streets for the purpose of funding road repair and maintenance programs, to be offset by the state highway block grant.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Street Lighting.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,300 for Solid Waste Disposal.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$538 for the Health Officer.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,450 for Direct Assistance, with the amount to be offset by fund balance.

David Bryan approached the microphone with a question; Sandra Gillis, chairwoman of the Board of Selectmen responded.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$800 for the Beach committee.

Neil Moriarty approached the microphone and spoke on behalf of the Beach Committee.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$850 for the Community Park Commission.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600 for the Recreation Committee.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150 for the Agricultural Commission.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,732 for the Richmond Library.

Sandra Holbrook approached the microphone to speak. She then moved to amend Article 32 as follows: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,111 for the Richmond Library. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed with the
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following people speaking at the microphone: Janice Weekes, Library Trustee; Norma Thibodeau, Archivist; Neil Moriarty; Sandra Holbrook. Concerns were raised and addressed

about moving the Archives to the storage facility owned by the City of Keene, as planned by the Library Trustees. The amendment did not pass by voice vote.

The original article passed by voice vote.

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes, with the amount to come from fund balance.

The article passed by voice vote.

Sean McElhiney moved to not reconsider Articles 9 through 33. The motion was seconded.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Article 34. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed \$39,000 for a mini-Excavator with grave digging attachments or a tractor with a loader and backhoe. (Not Recommended by the Selectmen)

The following people spoke at the microphone: Pamela Bielunis; Geraldine Lutz, Cemetery Trustee; Nicolas Bosonetto; Mark Beal, Road Agent; and Beverly Hart, Cemetery Trustee. Opinions were shared and questions raised regarding the need for this purchase.

The article did not pass by voice vote.

Article 35. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the Road Reconstruction and Maintenance Fund for the purpose of reconstruction of roads, including but not limited to preparation and paving.

Geraldine Lutz spoke at the microphone with various questions. Sandra Gillis, Chairwoman of the Board of Selectmen and Mark Beal, Road Agent, responded.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 36. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the Municipal Buildings Maintenance Fund for the purpose of maintaining and repairing all town buildings. Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to add to the Capital Reserve Trust Fund, known as the Municipal Buildings Construction & Renovation Fund for the purpose of allowing renovations or additions to existing town buildings or construction of new town buildings. Recommended by the Selectmen.

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The article passed by voice vote.

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$40,000 to add to the

Capital Reserve Fund known as the Bridge Improvement Fund for the purpose of replacing municipal bridges or structural components thereof; amount to be funded by reimbursement funds received from NH DOT. Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund, known as Energy Retrofits of Town Building for the purpose of conducting energy retrofits of municipal buildings per the S.E.E.D.s Energy Audit and Arbogast Energy Audit recommendations. Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

Alan Schmidt moved to not reconsider Articles 34 through 39. The motion was seconded.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Mr. Majoy announced that it was 11:30 am and that the polls would now be closed for voting on Article 8. Deborah Boncal and Sean McElhiney, Selectmen, tallied the votes. Mr. Majoy announced the results.

Article 8 did not pass by ballot vote: 58 Yes; 83 No.

James Carnie moved to not reconsider Article 8. The motion was seconded.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Service. (by request) Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,443 for Monadnock Family Services. (by request) Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$950 for Southwestern Community Services. (by request) Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

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Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for Community Kitchen. (by request) Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,500 to add to the Property Revaluation Fund for the purpose of conducting a complete revaluation of the Town in 2017.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 45. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the Boundary Line Perambulation Fund for the purpose of perambulation of the town, per RSA 51:2. Recommended by the Selectmen

The following people spoke at the microphone: James Carnie; Norma Thibodeau; John Boccalini. Mr. Boccalini moved to amend the article as follows: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,500 to add to the Expendable Trust Fund known as the Boundary Line Perambulation Fund for the purpose of perambulation of the town, per RSA 51:2. Recommended by the Selectmen The motion was seconded. The following people spoke at the microphone: David Bryan; Richard Drew. Mr. Boccalini moved to withdraw his amendment. The motion was seconded.

The original article passed by voice vote.

Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to add to the Capital Reserve Fund, known as the Fire Truck Fund, for the purpose of purchasing replacement Fire/Rescue Vehicles. Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 to add to the Fire Department Equipment Fund for the purpose of acquiring a generator and a thermal imager; grant funding will be sought to supplement this municipal appropriation. Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Rescue Squad Equipment Fund for the purpose of acquiring state required equipment for the Rescue Squad and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 for this purpose; and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund in the best interest of the town, or take any action thereon. Grant funding will be sought to supplement this municipal appropriation. Recommended by the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

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Article 49. To hear any reports of Agents, Committees, etc. heretofore chosen and to take any action thereon.

The article passed by voice vote.

Article 50. To take any action that may legally come before the meeting.

Sean McElhiney was appreciated for filling the vacancy of Selectman. Roberta Fraser was appreciated for her work as the Assistant to the Selectmen.

The article passed by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:02 pm. The motion was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Tokunaga
Richmond Town Clerk
March 21, 2013